<u>ABSTRACT</u>

A method and devices for printing a franking mark (28) on a document (22) with the aid of the following steps: a. making available a unique bit string; b. establishing an identification code; c. securely printing the franking mark (28) on the document (22), said franking mark at least comprising information relating to the bit string and the identification code; where the bit string is selected from a centrally stored set of unique bit of strings, and the unique bit strings which are made available for use are centrally registered.